



Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia
Community Supervision Services
Office of the Associate Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Community Supervision Staff

FROM: Thomas Williams, Associate Director *(Signed)*

DATE: May 5, 2000

SUBJECT: **Halfway Back Initiative (HBI) -A Sanctioning Alternative To Incarceration**

I am pleased to advise you of the pending availability of an important new initiative option for the management of certain non-compliant offenders who are facing potential probation revocation. The Halfway Back Initiative (HBI) is a probation sanctioning alternative that has been developed in cooperation with the Superior Court judiciary. The initiative will utilize a residential component; and, a series of progressive sanctions for probation offenders who have been found guilty by the sentencing judge of violating the term(s) of release.

Under the HBI, non-compliant probation offenders will be placed for 14 to 28 days in a residential facility where they can be stabilized in a secure environment. This stabilization process is essential as a strategy in ensuring that the offenders do not pose a continuing threat to themselves or public safety. The HBI is designed as an additional tool for the agency to effectively manage and control non-compliant behavioral patterns of the offenders short of incarceration. Under this initiative, the CSO will request a show cause hearing for non-compliant offenders who fit a specific set of criteria. During the show cause hearing, the CSO will recommend to the sentencing judge that the offender be assigned to the HBI. If the judge approves, the offender will be required to sign an accountability contract. This contract, that will include sanctions, will have the approval of the sentencing judge. The probationer offender will be placed in a halfway house for a specified period of time for assessment and stabilization. Once the probationer offender is released from the residential sanctions facility, he or she will be subject to a progressive series of graduated sanctions (incentive will also be built into the accountability contract).

The goals of the HBI are to stabilize the non-compliant probation offender who is presenting a complex range of issues related to criminality. In addition, supervision efforts will be directed to reintegrate the offender into the community under a highly structured supervision strategy that decreases the likelihood of future non-compliant behaviors. The HBI will become operational on **June 1, 2000.**

There will be a series of mandatory training sessions on the HBI that will be conducted throughout the balance of this month at various agency facilities around town. The initial trainee classes will be dedicated to all SCSOs and the CSOs who are supervising caseloads in the general supervision and special programs branches, but eventually all CSS staff will receive this training.

A tentative branch training schedule is listed below. Training sites will be determined and announced in subsequent directives. To every possible extent, staff should attend the sessions identified for their particular branch/specialty, but in the case of unavoidable scheduling conflicts, other sessions must be attended instead.

Tentative Halfway Back Schedule:

- Branch 2A: McKinley Rush, Acting Chief Tues., May 16th-1:30 p.m.
- Branch 2B: Jody Tracey, Acting Chief Thurs., May 18th -9:00am
- Branch 3: John Milam, Acting Chief Tues., May 23rd -1 :30pm
- Branch 4: Tanya Ray, Chief Thurs., May 25th -9:00am
- Branch 5: Tim Carroll, Acting Chief Wed., May 31st- 9:00am

The Branch Chiefs are required share the contents of this correspondence with their direct reports. The line supervisors are responsible for sharing this correspondence with staff in their organizational units. A draft policy directive will be forthcoming the second week of May 2000. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in enabling this important initiative option to successfully begin operations on June 1,2000.

cc: Mr. Kibler
Mr. Morris
Mr. Covell
Mr. Manuel
Branch Chiefs

Information Copy: Mr. Wilkinson
Dr. Ormond
Mr. Erhardt